GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:397
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for IntegratedWater Resources Development has strongly recommended the Government to enact a comprehensive law for joint management of inter-state rivers;

(b) if so, whether the existing river dispute laws are ineffective and need to be replaced; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 397 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 20.08.2001 REGARDING NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT.

The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan has stressed the need to treateach river basin as a hydrological unit for its development and has recommended enactment of a law on inter-state rivers (in the place of the River Boards Act) to be called the Inter-State Rivers& River Valley (Integrated and Participatory Management) Act, which inter-alia may provide for the constitution of River Basin Organisations and for their powers and functions.

The National Commission has further recommended certain measuresto ensure speedy settlement of inter-states water disputes and for their speedy implementation. These include settlement of the disputes by mutual agreement through the mechanism of River Basin Organisations; hearing the views of not only the contestant states but also all the other stakeholders and amendments of the existing Inter-State Water Disputes Act as recommended by Sarkaria Commission and agreed to in the Inter-State Council.

The Inter-State Water Disputes Act is proposed tobe suitably amended for which Government of India has framed an Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill and the Government has introduced it in the Parliament. The bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha and the same is to be moved in the Rajya Sabha.